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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/755,465	01/13/2004	Soo-Young Kim	8947-000069/US	9923

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EXAMINER

LE, THONG QUOC

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2827

DATE MAILED: 07/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/755,465

Applicant(s)

KIM, SOO-YOUNG

Examiner

Thong Q. Le

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 8-38 and 40 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,39 and 41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Amendment filed on 04/18/2006 has been entered.
2. Claims 1-41 are presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-41 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-2,39,41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Park et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,367,489).

Regarding claim 1, Park et al. disclose a semiconductor memory device (Figure 2) comprising:

an oscillator circuit (Figure 2, 100) for generating an oscillation signal that varies based on a mode of operation (Column 1, lines 57-60, Column 2, lines 15-18);

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a word line enable circuit (Figure 1C, INV1) for generating a word line enable signal (Figure 1C, WORD LINE) in response to the oscillation signal (Column 3, lines 39-48); and

a control circuit (Figure 5D, 100C) for controlling the oscillator circuit and the word line enable circuit so that a pulse width of the word line enable signal is widened (Column 2, lines 49-52) as operation mode of the memory device changes from an active mode to a stand-by mode (Column 2, lines 12-14).

Regarding claim 2, Park et al. disclose wherein a period of the oscillation signals is maintain as operation mode changes due to the widening of pulse width (Figure 3B, OSC).

Regarding claims 39, 41, Park et al. disclose a method of controlling operation of a semiconductor memory device that includes an oscillation circuit (Figure 2, 100) and a word line enable circuit (Figure 1C, INV1) the method comprising controlling the length of a period of oscillation signal generated by the oscillation circuit and the pulse width of the word line enable signal generated the word line enable circuit in response to the oscillation signal based on a change in mode of operation of the device (Column 1, lines 57-65, Column 2, lines 8-18, lines 49-56).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 3-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Claims 3-7 include allowable subject matter since the prior art made of record and considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure does not teach or suggest the claimed limitations. Park et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,367,489), and others, does not teach the claimed invention having a control circuit controls the oscillator circuit so that the period of the oscillation signal is lengthened after a give time elapses from the beginning of the stand-by mode as claims 3-7 disclosed.

7. Claims 8-38, 40 are allowed.

Claims 8-38 include allowable subject matter since the prior art made of record and considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure does not teach or suggest the claimed limitations. Park et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,367,489), and others, does not teach the claimed invention having a flag signal generator circuit for generating a flag signal indicating an end of a first refresh section of a stand-by mode of operation, after a given time elapses from a start of the stand-by mode.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thong Q. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-1783. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zarabian Amir can be reached on 571-272-1852. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Thong Q. Le
Primary Examiner
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6/28/2006